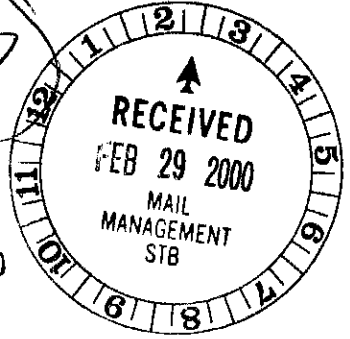


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To Surface Transportation Board
Honorable Vernon A. Williams Sec.

From Midwest Farmers Cooperative
Ellis Hein Gen. Mgr.

Subject : BNSF-CN Merger

February 25, 2000

Dear Mr. Williams:

I want to express my concern for the proposed merger of the BNSF-CN railroads in that this merger would not be alone in it's industry impact but would initiate another round of industry mergers and consolidations. We are presently down to only a handful of operating railroads and further consolidation seems unnecessary.

I would suggest that the present mergers be allowed or expected to refine and complete the operational efficiencies and objectives they promised in the past mergers. We as shippers are seeing good improvement in services especially the past year as the mergers mature.

I would like to see continued investment in and commitment by the major railroads to infrastructure on the existing lines and commitment to service. I feel this has happened on the UP-SP merger but would be concerned that another round of mergers forced by the need to maintain competitive equality would not be in anyone's best interest. We have experienced the service problems with mergers and are just now observing the positive service results and have no real desire to return to those days.

One other item that is of concern for us as shippers is the thought of Government Regulation coming back in the form of Open Access. Presently in the deregulated environment railroads are investing in infrastructure and advanced technology to improve operations and service to customers. Open Access would cause them not to do so as others would benefit at limited or no cost from their investment. The financial strength of individual railroads would deteriorate. I feel the differential pricing offered by railroads is a plus for our operation and would not like to see Open Access or deregulation.

I appreciate your time and consideration for us as shippers and emphasize our opposition to regulation, open access and the approval of the BNSF-CN merger.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellis F. Hein".

Ellis F. Hein
General Manager

ATTN - BNSF/CN Control Transaction - Finance Docket #33842